

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04910 061335Z

44

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 SCCT-02 SY-04

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 CIEP-03

DRC-01 /152 W

----- 110566

R 061300Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6460

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

RUQKSTOQAMEMBASSY MANAMA 28

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS BAGHDAD AND DOHA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR XF TS

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SUBJECT: PLO DELEGATION VISIT

1. ABDELJAWAD SALAH HEADED PLO DELEGATION, ALSO INCLUDING SAMI AL-ATTARI AND HANI HASSEN, VISITED TUNIS AUGUST 1-2 EVIDENTLY TO SEEK SUPPORT AGAINST JOINT EGYPTIAN-JORDIAN COMMUNIQUE. DELEGATION RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA AND PRIME MINISTER AUGUST 2. SALAH INDICATED TO PRESS HIS DEL VISITING NORTH AFRICAN CAPITALS AND WOULD LATER GO ON TO GULF STATES.

2. SALAH QUOTED IN LOCAL FRENCH PRESS TO EFFECT THAT BOURGUIBA HAD REITERATED HIS SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND FOR THEIR REVOLUTION, AND THAT THERE WAS COMPLETE IDENTITY OF VIEWS BETWEEN HIM AND PLO DELEGATION. IN ADDITION SALAH TOLD ARABIC DAILY AS-SABAH (WHICH GAVE DELEGATION EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COVERAGE) THAT BOURGUIBA HAD PROMISED TO STUDY PROPOSAL THAT A "POPULAR COMMITTEE" BE ESTABLISHED IN TUNIS TO CONSTITUTE A PERMANENT LINK BETWEEN TUNISIANS AND THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND TO PROVIDE MATERIAL SUPPORT.

3. COMMENT: WHILE BOURGUIBA NO DOUBT REITERATED TO PLO DELEGATION TRADITIONAL TUNISIAN SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN CAUSE, GOT HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO AVOID PUTTING ITSELF IN POSITION OF OPPOSING EGYPTIAN-JORDANIAN COMMUNIQUE. GIVEN SINCERE CONCERN OF TOP LEVEL GOT OFFICIALS FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, FORMATION OF LOCAL COMMITTEE PERHAPS AS ADJUNCT OF DESTOURIAN SOCIALIST PARTY STRUCTURE, IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE IDEA. HOWEVER, GIVEN CONSTANT PREOCCUPATION OF GOT SECURITY AND OTHER OFFICIALS WITH RISK OF KHARTOUM-TYPE INCIDENT OCCURRING TUNIS, WE DOUBT GOT WOULD COUNTENANCE AN INCREASED PALESTINIAN PRESENCE HERE ON PERMANENT BASIS.
SEELYE

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD AND DOHA.
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